

NEWS RELEASE

USDA Forest Service
Santa Fe National Forest



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SANTA FE NATIONAL FOREST AND VALLES CALDERA NATIONAL PRESERVE TO LIFT FIRE RESTRICTIONS

(Santa Fe, NM)—Fire officials announced the immediate end to Stage I fire restrictions on the Santa Fe National Forest and Valles Caldera National Preserve. The decision was reached based on recent rain, forecasted higher humidity and lower temperatures.

“Many areas of the forest have received substantial rain, enough to decrease the risk of large wildfires,” said Nando Lucero, Acting Fire Management Officer. “We appreciate the public’s patience while we endured this dry summer.” Small lightning-caused fires are still prevalent, but have been contained at small sizes.

Prior to lifting fire restrictions, Stage I Restrictions were in effect on most areas of the forest which restricted campfires only to designated areas. Restrictions have applied to most of the forest at varying levels throughout the summer. Campfires were even prohibited in some areas during considerably dry periods.

The public is reminded that campfire safety is still of high concern, and urged to follow fire safety precautions when recreating in the forest. If you have a campfire, please abide by the following rules:

- **Build campfires away from overhanging branches, steep slopes, rotten stumps, logs, dry grass, pine needles and leaves. Pile extra wood away from the fire;**
- **Clear the area down to bare soil;**
- **Keep your campfire safe and small, especially when it’s windy;**
- **Never leave your campfire unattended;**
- **Drown the fire with water & dirt, stir remains, add more water and dirt, and stir again. Do not bury your coals as they can smolder and re-ignite later**
- **Make sure your fire is *dead out* before leaving.**

Additional fire information can be obtained at <http://www.fs.fed.us/r3/fire>. For other fire restrictions on public lands in the southwest, call toll free 1-877-864-6985. To report a fire, call (505) 438-7800.

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